



Bush Music Club

e-Newsletter for October 2026



Summary of Activities in the next 2 months

2 nd -5 th Oct 26		Goulburn Spring Gathering (refer to details in newsletter)
5 th Oct	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44) CANCELLED
5 th Oct	7.30 -9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop CANCELLED
6 th Oct	7.30 – 9.30pm	Playford Dancing (Hut 44) CANCELLED
13 th Oct	7.30 – 9.30pm	Playford Dancing – Come along and dance in a stately manner, reminiscent of Jane Austen times, to live music provided by BMC members. All dances walked through and called. The dances are elegant and restrained, unlike the exuberant exhibitions to be found at a bush dance! (Hut 44) Cost \$15 Contact Louise 0409 394 126
7 th Oct	11 – 2pm	Marrickville Music Group – Bring music to share (it can be any genre) and your lunch for a congenial day of music and friendship. Tea/coffee provided. Cost: \$15 (Hut 44) Contact Sharyn 0459 146 845
12 th Oct	5 – 7pm	Slow Session – come along and improve your music skills at a speed that suits virtually everyone. We aim to remove the mysteries of how to “read the dots”, to enhance your awareness of timing and abilities to listen and play along with other fellow musicians. Cost:\$15 (Hut 44)
12 th Oct	7 – 9pm	Concert Party – Join in with other club members in singing, recitation, yarn spinning or playing traditional Aussie collected tunes. Imagine that you’re sitting round a campfire and taking turns to entertain the rest of the mob. Music notation and song sheets are available, and everyone is welcome to share their experiences. As with any party, participation is strongly encouraged. Cost: \$15, free on first visit or if already paid for Slow Session (Hut 44)
12 th Oct	7.30 – 9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop – Join in learning to dance various traditional bush dances. All dances are walked through and called. Cost: \$10 (Pennant Hills Community Centre)
19 th Oct	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
19 th Oct	7.30 -9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop (Pennant Hills Community Centre)
26 st Oct	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
26 st Oct	7.30 -9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop (Pennant Hills Community Centre)
2 nd Nov	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
2 nd Nov	7.30 -9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop (Pennant Hills Community Centre)
3 rd Nov	7.30 – 9.30pm	Playford Dancing (Hut 44)

4 th Nov	11 – 2pm	Marrickville Music Group – (Hut 44)
9 th Nov	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
9 th Nov	7.30 -9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop (Pennant Hills Community Centre)
16 th Nov	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
16 th Nov	7.30 -9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop (Pennant Hills Community Centre)
23 rd Nov	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
23 rd Nov	7.30 -9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop (Pennant Hills Community Centre)
30 th Nov	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
30 th Nov	7.30 -9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop (Pennant Hills Community Centre)

Special events coming

2 nd -5 th Oct 26		Goulburn Spring Gathering (refer to details in newsletter)
16 th -18 th Oct 26		Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival, BMC Sessions & Saplings
20 th -22 nd Nov 26		Bundanoon Folk Festival, The BMC Saplings participating
5 th Dec 26	2.00-4:30pm	Beecroft Dance at the: <i>Beecroft Presbyterian Church 6a Welham St Beecroft</i>
15 th -17 th Jan 2027		Illawarra Folk Festival, BMC Sessions & Saplings
22 nd -26 th Jan 2027		Numeralla Folk Festival (no formal BMC involvement)
5 th -7 th Feb 2027		Concertina Convergence Goulburn
6 th Mar 2027	2-4:30pm	Beecroft Dance at the Beecroft Community Hall:

President's Report

Firstly I have to sadly advise that one of our early members, Ann Maher, has passed away at the age of 90. Ann, together with her husband Frank (deceased 2025) were very active members of the club and got great pleasure from performing the collected songs and tunes being played. Our thoughts are with her daughters Helen, Monica and their families at this time.

It is with further sorrow, that I inform members of the recent passing of a very passionate member of the club – John Poleson.

It's been a busy time this month with the lead-up to the Spring Gathering to be held at the Goulburn Club over the first long weekend in October. The program has now been finalised- a copy should have been sent out to all members.

Our Membership Secretary, Wayne Steele is jointly running a session with me called “What Part are YOU Playing”. This promises to be an interesting experience not to be missed. Helen and Tony Romeo, Dave Johnson, Ralph Pride , Tony and Jude Stuart are all representing the BMC with their respective sessions. Make sure to grab a ticket from Humanitix and come along to join in the fun.

Slow Session

In the lead- up to the Goulburn Gathering I’ve been putting together various pages of music for that event. To give Monday night slow session attendees a taste of what’s in store, we have spent a little time trying some of them out and improving our sight reading skills along the way. A number of the tunes have not seen light of day for quite a few years. Everyone seems to be enjoying the challenges they present. It was good to have Robin from Goulburn call in to play along with us.

Concert Party (CP)

Last Monday the CP tried out some of the proposed songs that Ralph Pride will be sharing during his session on Drinking Songs at the Goulburn Gathering. I remain unconvinced of the merits of drinking “ dunkenyal” - (methylated spirits).

It was wonderful to see some of our less regular members turn out to join in the fun of meeting up and sharing stories, songs and food at the BMC picnic held in Parramatta Park..

With the demise of Winter, I’m looking forward to seeing a few more members pop in to join our sessions of a Monday night (7-9pm). It was great to have Doug Richardson call in from Holbrook to share a few tunes with us

George Bolliger

Vale John Poleson



John Poleson joined the BMC in the early 1970’s and, when he and his wife Lynne had children, introduced them also into the delights of Aussie folklore. John played with the Rouseabouts Bush Band (together with such notables as Bob Bolton, Chris Kempster and Keith Snell etc) and represented the Club as the Concert Party.

A multi-talented instrumentalist and a fine yarn spinner (“Have I told you the TRUE story about...”) who will be sorely missed at our regular Monday meetings.

For a much more comprehensive story of John’s life, please refer to <https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2020/02/bmc-families-poleson-collection.html>

George Bolliger

Vale Ann (Banks) Maher



When Ann and her husband Frank were married, they passed under an arch formed from crossed lagerphones! For more information, please refer to:

<https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2026/09/obit-death-of-ann-maher-tuesday-1st.html>

From L to R: Ralph Pride, David Gibbons, Helen, Dale Dengate

This collection of members attended the funeral for Ann Maher at Macquarie Park Cemetery in Sydney this month. Dale is the wife of John Dengate (dec.) and David is the son of Barbara Gibbons – she joined the BMC in 1959.



George Bolliger

Pennant Hills Dance Workshop August/September 2026 Report

We had four great dance workshops in the last month.

Dances taught in the month included: Flirtation Reel, Banksia Quadrille, Flannel Flower Schottische, Triple Galop Quadrille, Highland Rambler, Gypsy Tap, Pride of Erin, Whitehorse Waltz, Reel of the 51st Division, Circle Waltz, Queen of Sheba, Elephant Stampede, Rosemary Waltz, Two Fish, Postie's Jig, Saturday Triad, Packhorse, Guiding Lights Fig 1, Upon a Summer's Day, Reel Fun, Dashing White Sergeant, Duke of Kent's Waltz.

John Short

Sydney Playford English Country Dance September 2026 Report.

Sydney Playford English Country Dance group met on Tuesday, 1st September from 7:30-9:30pm at the BMC Hut, Marrickville. There was lovely turn out of dancers and we danced 9 dances including "Sellenger's Round", "Jenny Pluck Pears", "Grimstock", "Fandango", "The Hole in the Wall", "Indian Queen" & "Newcastle". Thank you to Patricia for teaching a new dance, "Turning by Threes" & a variation of "Halfe Hanniken" which was danced in a circle instead of longways. Thank you also to our other callers Alex, Christine, Margaret, Colin & David. A huge thank you to our wonderful musicians for playing & we all appreciate having live music as it makes dancing more pleasurable.

NOTE

Sydney Playford English Dance group will meet on Tuesday, 13th October in lieu of the 6th Oct. The day has been changed due to the long weekend and many people may be going to Goulburn.

Louise Murray

Marrickville Music Group Report. September 2026

MMG is a group for musicians to play music from Bush to Bach. We meet once a month on the 1st Wednesday of the month, from 11am to 2pm, and stop for lunch, a chat and a cuppa. Tea, coffee and a snack is available on arrival.

If you have a piece of music you would like to share, why not come along with your instrument(s), music to share (we have a photocopier) and your lunch for a gentle day music and friendship in an air-conditioned hall.

Cost: \$15

Contact: Sharyn on 0459 146 185

On 2nd September we had a pleasant and keen number of musicians who enjoyed playing a collection of tunes in Hut 44. Tunes ranged from 'Spring' (of course), part of Vivaldi's 'The Four Seasons' in four parts, 'My Wild Irish Rose' in 'A' to Nino Rota's tune 'Parla Piu Piano' from the film 'The Godfather'. Add 'Gervasoni Waltz No. 5', 'Ode to Joy' by Beethoven and 'Zikino Kolo', a Serbian folk dance tune and you can see the variety of music we play.

Karen Fong

Parramatta Park Garraway Shelter Picnic 19th Sep 26 Report

On Saturday 19th September, a group of Bush Music Club members met under the Garraway Shelter to chat, play music and sing along to some classic tunes. We used the BMC booklet *Singalong Book 2* which has some beauties in it such as *The Gum Tree Canoe* (a bit tricky for this concertina player in the Key of E major), Don Henderson's *Put a Light in Every Country Window*, Henry Lawson's *Freedom on the Wallaby, South Australia* and Stan Wakefield's *The Rabbiter*. Thanks to George Bolliger for barbecuing some snags to share (one left- over sausage was 'stolen' by a cheeky magpie as we were singing...).

Club members are planning to do a session(s) out at the *Australiana Pioneer Village* at historic Wilberforce in the coming months. If you would like Club members and friends to meet out in the Great Outdoors at one of your favourite locations, let the committee know. The Club email is: bmcmail1954@gmail.com

Karen Fong

Saplings News

The next Sapling sessions will be held at:

Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival

16 – 18 Oct 2026

Saplings on Saturday and Sunday at 11am – 12.00

In the Verandah area



Bundanoon Folk Festival

20 – 22 Nov 2026

Saplings on Saturday – no time or venue has been confirmed

Illawarra Folk Festival 15 -17 Jan 2027

(dates and times to be confirmed)

Saplings is a session or workshop specifically for young musicians to learn about and play our rich heritage of Australian dance music and songs. Sessions are usually held at NSW folk festivals. Bring you musical instrument or borrow some percussion and join in the fun!!

Saplings Website: BMCsaplings.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/saplings.bushmusicclub/>

Helen Romeo

BMC Website

To access information on the BMC activities and other relevant and interesting information we invite members to visit the BMC at www.bushmusic.org.au

At present the:

- Facebook group has 507 members,
- Facebook page has 872 followers
- Meetup has 368 members

The website layout is currently being redesigned. We welcome any comment from the members as to the features you would like to see on the website.

Mike Young

Bush Music Club – Australia's First & Oldest Folk Club

The Club was formed in 1954 as part of the post-war search for the kind of music people remembered their families & their friends singing, playing & listening to in earlier years, to counter the increasing Americanisation of our culture. Our founders formed the first bush band, The Bushwhackers (1952-57) & many of their collections are in the National Library. In 2014 I took over responsibility for BMC Archives & Library from Bob Bolton. Bob joined BMC in the early 60s following his father & older brother. He travelled to Tasmania in 1965, returning to Sydney Easter 1970 & then took photos of BMC events, folk events & festivals, including The National until he retired.

Bob was a professional photographer. The collection includes over 100 photo albums, most of them of Bob's photos dating from 1982 to c.2007 when he got a digital camera - I remember him lining up a shot at his local folk club, then moving aside & flipping through the camera's booklet trying to work out what to do next! His negative collection, in Rob Willis's custody, dates from 1969, but we don't have any early albums, all we have is some colour photocopies of some 1970s events.

He also gathered together all archival material he could find, and much of this is on BMC's blog which I started in 2012 at

<https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/p/guide-to-blog.html>

& still have much more to blog.

Our Library includes around 1000 items, published books, BMC song & tune books, & many small self-published poetry books.

The Archives include original material gathered from many sources, & copies of items owned by our founders & other early members.

We also have a small sound collection - LPs & CDs, & a few cassettes!

Sandra Nixon

Cooking Segment

Thank you to all of our members who have responded with their various burnt offerings for inclusion in future BMC Enewsletters. When I was going through them, it reminded me of the early days of the BMC when people sent in various tunes, songs or yarns for inclusion in our Mulga Wire publication. Keep them coming!

This month's offering, to make a change from the usual bread and dripping handed out, comes from Bob Murray of George's Plains, just down the road from that quaint place called Cow Flat. Bob has finally changed over from pounds and pints to using the newfangled metric system.

PEANUT BUTTER BISCUITS

225g Self Raising Flour (Sifted) - *just use your fingers*

175g Peanut Butter

120g Butter (melted) - *margarine is ok*

100g Castor Sugar

90g Brown Sugar

1tsp Vanilla

1 Egg

Combine sugars add butter, mix and add egg. Add flour gradually while mixing and add peanut butter and vanilla. Spoon out approx 15 grams (*just a teaspoon full*) at a time and roll into balls. Squash with a fork.

Place on a baking tray covered with baking paper. Bake for 18 minutes at 160C or when cooked. (*For those of us using camp ovens, place the heated oven on top of a bed of coals and give it about 10 minutes or so. If you smell burning, rapidly remove and inspect*) . When you are happy with the extent of browning, remove and cool away from the flies and light-fingered small hands.

George Bolliger

Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club Activities

Regular 1st Sunday Bush Dance

Sunday 4th October with Chord-eaux

Regular 3rd Sunday Bush Dance

Sunday 18th October with Chord-eaux

Both dances are only \$5 which includes afternoon tea

1.45 – till 4pm

Heininger Hall, Heininger Street, Dapto

Contact: Cris 0404 667 614 - wongawillibushdance@gmail.com

The Wongas will be running the Friday Night Opening Bush Dance at

Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival - Friday 16th October

With Southern Cross and friends from the Illawarra providing the music

Helen Romeo

The Goulburn Spring Gathering 2-5th Oct 2026

Over the Labour Day long weekend in October, the BMC is hosting the annual Goulburn Gathering - to be held at the Goulburn Club located in the midst of the bustling Goulburn CBD at 19 Market St Goulburn . This is a wonderful weekend that draws participants from as far afield as Melbourne and Brisbane on occasion. It is an opportunity for 'folkies' to gather to share yarns, singing, poetry, dancing, and playing music. Why not come along and join in the activities.

The Lilac Festival is held in Goulburn over the same weekend, and this year the Saturday Bush Dance is included in the program of events. A cooperative program is in hand for a wool industry focus featuring shearing song (of course) and shearing and cuddly lambs and spinners and weavers to be featured after the Lilac Time Parade on the Sunday. Dave is negotiating for a flatbed truck so we can have a float in the parade as well!

If you would like to participate with the float, remember that the theme is LILAC, so wear/bring lots of purple things to help decorate the float.

Tickets are available from:

<https://events.humanitix.com/bmc-goulburn-gathering-2026>

The event programme is available from:

<https://davidjohnson.id.au/docs/2026%20BMC%20Gathering%20Program.pdf>

On the Friday night Michelle Bolliger will be providing meals at the Goulburn Club – pay at the bar beforehand.

I really enjoy attending this event, not just to meet some of our country members that can't make it to our headquarters at Marrickville, but to slow down and relax. There is nothing more soothing than to sit back and listen to some wonderful Aussie tunes/poetry/songs, with a glass in hand from the Goulburn Club bar and a roaring fire to keep everyone warm.

The BMC blogsite has many pictures and article from previous gatherings. <https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/p/guide-to-blog.html>

If you have never been, why not take the time this year to visit us at Goulburn. (I have it on good authority that the numerous op-shops in Goulburn are also a big drawcard for some of our members!). There are plenty of places to stay, ranging from caravan parks, motels and hotels.

The Goulburn Club is a music venue independently managed by volunteers and it boasts a great little bar and food outlets are quite close.



George Bolliger & David Johnson

Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival 16-18th October 2026



The Kangaroo Folk Festival is to be held from 16-18th October. The BMC are invited to perform two music sessions at the festival. The draft programme dates are: Saturday 17th Oct 10-11am & Sunday 18th Oct 10-11am at the “Bar & Verandah venue.” We would like any members who are intending to visit the KVFF to join in and support the BMC Concert Party group at these sessions. It expected that one session will be mostly playing tunes and the other session will focus on singing drinking songs.

Bundanoon Folk festival 20th-22nd November 2026



There are no formal BMC Concert Party activities at this Folk Festival.

However the BMC Saplings will be providing sessions at this event. Details to follow.

Beecroft Presbyterian Church Hall Bush Dance 5th December 2026



The next Beecroft Bush dance is on Saturday 5th December with the live music provided by the BMC Concert Party band. This is a good opportunity to enjoy each other's company and get a bit of exercise. We would like to fill the hall with dancers. We ask you to support the BMC and attend this dance for a pleasant afternoon.

Note that this Beecroft Dance will be held at the Beecroft Presbyterian Church Hall... 6a Welham St Beecroft.

Illawarra Folk Festival 15-17th Jan 2027



The Illawarra Folk Festival is to be held from 15-17th January 2027. The BMC is participating in this festival as we have done in previous years. It is now confirmed that the BMC will perform in three music sessions. We would like any members who are intending to visit the IFF in 2027 to join in and support the BMC Concert Party group.

At present the program indicates:

- Friday 15th Jan Folk School (slow session workshop – TBC)
- Friday 15th Jan 4.45- 5.45, Session Tipi - to present Aussie Tunes
- Saturday 16th Jan 9am – 9.50am, Session tipi - Aussie Tunes/ songs.
- Sunday 17th Jan 9-9:50am in the Session TiPi - Aussie Tunes

The BMC Saplings are expecting to be providing Sessions on Saturday and Sunday. However this is yet to be confirmed.

Numeralla Folk Festival 22nd -26th Jan 2027

Note that the community run Numeralla folk festival is being held on the Australia day weekend. Depending on how many BMC members come along , we may hold a relaxing session or two at the campground.

It is a free festival with no tickets nor bookings required. Camping is free. The activities consist of live performances , bush dances, workshop, blackboard sessions, markets and food. For further details refer www.numeralla.org.au/folkfestival ,

Contra and English Country dancing anyone?

Keith Wood organises a monthly workshop at Pennant Hills.

The workshops are held on Sunday afternoons, usually on the 3rd Sunday in the month between **2:15 and 5:15pm** in the **Main Hall at the Pennant Hills Community Centre, 70 Yarrara Rd, Pennant Hills, NSW**, usually on the third Sunday of the month. The dates coming up in 2026 are:

- Sunday 25 Oct (English Country) - later in the month due to the Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival
- Sunday 15 Nov (Contra)

A \$10 donation is suggested to help cover costs. There is water, tea, and coffee available to drink. Afterwards dancers usually go across to the Hotel Pennant Hills for dinner together.

Contact Keith Wood 0420 913 934

FOR THE MUSICIANS



Q: What do you get when you drop a piano down a mine shaft?

A: A flat minor.

Bob in the Washhouse

Joe Cashmere, Booligal, NSW - Meredith Collection

Musical score for "Bob in the Washhouse" in D major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music, each with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The chords are indicated above the notes: D, Bm, D, G, A7, and D. The melody is written in treble clef. The score includes measure numbers 1, 5, 9, and 13. The final measure of the fourth staff is a double bar line.

BUSH MUSIC CLUB

**BEECROFT
AFTERNOON BUSH DANCE**

**Saturday 5th December
2pm - 4:30pm**



**Beecroft Presbyterian Church Hall
6A Welham St Beecroft**

**LIVE MUSIC - NO DANCE EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
ALL DANCES WALKED THROUGH & CALLED
ALL WELCOME, Air Conditioned Hall**

**adults \$25, children <12yrs free, family \$45
concessions: groups of 10 & BMC members \$20**

The Bush Music Club www.bushmusic.org.au

email: bmcmail1954@gmail.com

For those wishing to join the BMC or renew their membership you can fill in the electronic membership form and pay online electronically to our bank account using our website www.bushmusic.org.au.

The Direct deposit details are located on the renewal form OR
You can complete and return the following form to the Treasurer at (e) allendavisguitar@gmail.com
or by mail to Hut 44 142 Addison Rd Marrickville NSW 2206. Cheques to be made out to "THE BUSH MUSIC CLUB."
Any questions w/r/t membership contact Wayne Steele at bmc1954membership@gmail.com

BUSH MUSIC CLUB inc

Hut 44 / 142 Addison Rd, MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204
Founded 1954

MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION []

RENEWAL []

UPDATE []

Name:

Address:

Phone: Home () Mobile

Email

Would you like to receive: Regular electronic news updates [] Yes

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

[] SINGLE \$30 [] FAMILY \$40 [] PENSIONER \$20
[] AFFILIATION (Clubs only) \$70 [] DONATION \$

5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

[] SINGLE \$120 [] FAMILY \$160
[] AFFILIATION \$280 [] PENSIONER \$80

CASH / CHEQUE Enclosed \$.....(No cash through post please)

Signature: Date:

Direct deposit details: BSB 062-005 Reference: Your Name & "Membership"
Account 0090 7524 Bank: Commonwealth
Email this form or details of payment to treasurer, Allen Davis: allendavisguitar@gmail.com

Office Use Only

Feb	Apr	Jun	Aug	Oct	Dec	
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Fee received --- / --- / ---	Appl approved --- / --- / ---	Record updated --- / --- / ---	Member Number	New Card Posted --- / --- / ---
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INTERIM RECEIPT AND PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP

Name

Fee received by \$ Date / /
(Committee Member)

THIS IS PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP FOR 3 MONTHS FROM THIS DATE

If membership card is not received within three months

please contact the Membership Secretary by email: bmc1954membership@gmail.com

Rev A 260624

President	George Bolliger	gbolliger1@gmail.com	Secretary	Karen Fong	bmcmail1954@gmail.com
Past President	Sharyn Mattern	sharynmattern@gmail.com	Membership	Wayne Steele	bmc1954membership@gmail.com
Hut finances	Simon Farrugai	bmchut44@gmail.com	Treasurer	Allen Davis	allendavisguitar@gmail.com
Events	Brian Freeman	rodzport@optusnet.com.au			

BUSH MUSIC CLUB



Australia's Traditional Songs, Dances, Music & Folklore

**Bush Music Club Inc,
Founded 1954**

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Website <http://www.bushmusic.org.au/>

Blog <https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/p/guide-to-blog.html>

Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/user/BushMusicClubInc>

Email bmcmail1954@gmail.com

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Meetup <http://www.meetup.com/Sydney-Bush-Music-Club-tup/>

